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03500.015231

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| In re Application of: |) | |
| | : | Examiner: L. Nguyen |
| KAZUMASA YOSHIKAWA, ET AL. |) | |
| | : | Group Art Unit: 2612 |
| Appln. No.: 09/819,757 |) | |
| | : | |
| Filed: March 29, 2001 |) | |
| | : | |
| For: OPTICAL DEVICE, OPTICAL |) | |
| DEVICE DRIVING UNIT, AND | : | January 14, 2005 |
| CAMERA SYSTEM |) | |

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicants respectfully traverse the election of species requirement set forth in the Office Action dated December 15, 2004, requiring election from among the species shown in Species I (Figures 1-13), Species II (Figures 14-18), and Species III (Figures 19-21).

Requiring an election of species is a discretionary matter for the Examiner, and need not be imposed in every instance. Applicants submit that in this application, the various species are closely related and would not require separate fields of search.

Accordingly, neither Applicants nor the Patent and Trademark Office should be put to the

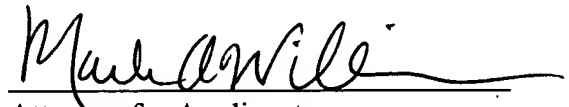
trouble and expense entailed in multiple filing and prosecution. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the public at large should not be required to obtain and study separate patent documents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering the invention.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.143, Applicants provisionally elect Species I represented by Figures 1-13. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-17 read on the elected species.

Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C., office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Williamson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Attorney for Applicants
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